

Docket Number: 071469-0306881

Client Reference: ES-016

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of

VAIDYANATHAN BALASUBRAMANIAM, et al.

Group Art Unit: 2812

Application No.: 10/743,275

Examiner:

Filed: December 23, 2003

Confirmation No.: 4465

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING PHOTORESIST FROM A SUBSTRATE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the cited U.S. patent/patent applications are enclosed. However, one copy of each foreign reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner return an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to Applicants with the next Office communication to indicate that the references have been considered, per MPEP § 609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.

These references were cited in an International Search Report and a Written Opinion, both dated May 3, 2005, in a corresponding foreign application. Copies of these documents are enclosed for the Examiner's consideration.

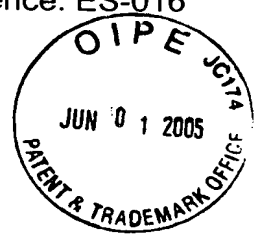
Respectfully Submitted,

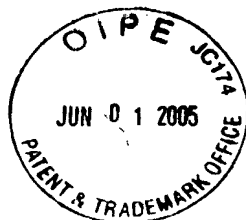


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PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/743,275
Filing Date	12/23/2003
First Named Inventor	VAIDYANATHAN BALASUBRAMANIAM
Art Unit	2812
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	071469-0306881

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	1	US- 5,888,309	03-30-1999	YU	
	2	US- 2003/0087488 A1	05-08-2003	FINK et al.	
	3	US- 2001/0038089 A1	11-08-2001	LEVENSON et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A	WO 2004/109773 A2	12-16-2004	CHEN et al.		
	B	WO 2004/109772 A2	12-16-2004	CHEN et al.		
	C	WO 2004/061919 A1	07-22-2004	IGARASHI et al.		
	D	WO 03/103017 A2	12-11-2003	LAM et al.		
	E	WO 99/39382 A1	08-05-1999	LEVENSON et al.		

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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